

# NEWS and GOSSIP of WASHINGTON



## Army Ordnance Experts Find Deadliest War Bomb

WASHINGTON.—Army ordnance experts after many experiments with about a score of aerial bombs, it is reported, have found a bomb of high explosive power, combined with the use of deadly gases, the invention of an American, which is said to excel in destructiveness any similar weapon known here or in Europe.



The tests proved so uniformly satisfactory, it was said, that the war department has been urged to adopt the bomb for use in the aviation service. F. E. Barlow, an employee of the Frankfort arsenal, Philadelphia, the inventor, has offered its exclusive use to the United States government.

The Barlow bomb is six feet in length and approximately five inches in diameter, shaped like a torpedo. In addition to an explosive charge of T. N. T., it contains a gas chamber in which a new and secret combination of gas is used.

It is estimated that the bomb has a fatal destructive radius of at least 100 yards.

One of the chief features of the bomb in which it differs radically from bombs which depend for bursting force on contact with the earth or other object, is that it may be exploded in the air with full power. This is said to enhance its destructive power to a much larger degree than any known form of contact bomb, as it may be exploded over the heads of troops and spread gases earthward over a larger surface.

By means of an electric timing device the operator of an aeroplane, it is asserted, will be able to regulate to a second the time of the explosion of the bomb. Another unique feature of this weapon permits of its use as an aerial torpedo when not desired to use it as a "drop" explosive. The bomb may be made with a new type of electric motor and propeller, which would enable the aviation operator to fire it horizontally, or to direct it toward a target at any angle. The bombs are arranged for attaching to the undersides of aeroplanes, to be released by foot pressure on a trigger.

## Feathered Summer Residents of Capital Leaving

AS THE thousands of Washingtonians who deserted the city with the approach of the summer months for the seashore and mountain resorts of the North begin to return to their homes, thousands of visitors who annually make their summer homes here are leaving for the South.

Not everyone in Washington has noticed it, but ever since the first chilly night they have been quietly slipping away, and already many thousands of Washington's summer residents have left.

They form the army of songbirds that make their homes in the shrubs and trees that adorn the parks of the national capital. They are the robin and the wren, the modest wood thrush, known far and wide for his sweet song—the bluebird, who brings happiness; the downy woodpecker, who excavates his home in the dead limbs, and the many other members of the feathered tribe who furnish song and sunshine to city dwellers.

It is the common observation of persons who are interested in birds, and even the observation of many other persons who have no particular interest in the subject, that the bird-protection laws of the federal government and of the various states are producing the results which are the aim of these laws. A great increase is noted in the number of song birds, game birds and especially in the number of birds of gay plumage.

This comment is often heard among the Washington people who are interested in birds. Last spring they noted that bluebirds, indigo buntings, goldfinches, redstarts, orioles, scarlet tanagers, summer tanagers, cardinals and the yellow warblers were more numerous than in preceding years, and the increase in the numbers of these gay and beautiful birds is apparent to nearly everybody, and particularly to persons who live in the suburbs of Washington or on the edges of the city, and who have gardens and yards with shrubbery in them.

## Lineage of the Lamp Shown in Museum Collection

A COLLECTION of all the various illuminating devices used throughout the history of the world is now being prepared by Dr. Walter Hough of the National Museum here, and will be placed on exhibition as soon as space can be found for it. Stowed away in large airtight cabinets in Doctor Hough's office is the complete record of man's development as shown by his lighting appliances from the days of the primitive campfire to the present tungsten filament. Here is the firebrand by which our aboriginal ancestor transferred fire from tribe to tribe; here is the animal's skull, which constituted the first attempt at a lamp, and the greased stick that was superseded by the candle. A part



of the collection is already occupying three cases in the museum, where it attracts a great deal of attention among visitors.

Ultimately, Doctor Hough hopes to broaden the collection into a complete history of fire rather than a history of illuminating alone. Among his present specimens are many curious old stoves and bellows and foot-warmers, and one curfew which is said to be the only one in America. It is the popular opinion in this country that the curfew was a bell, but instead it is a sort of brass lid which was used to cover the fire. At one time in England a law was passed requiring every light to be out at a certain hour in the night, presumably nine o'clock, and in order to comply with the letter of this law people had to suppress their fires. Thus the hour when the fires were covered with curfew came to be called the curfew hour.

## President Must Be Able to Use Any Kind of Pen

SOME men prefer soft pens. Some prefer hard. Some couldn't write without a fountain pen. And there are still some elderly men surviving who insist on using quills. The president of the United States has got to accustom himself to using all kinds of pens to gratify the vanity of those who want to keep as souvenirs the pens with which certain measures in which they are interested are signed.

Ordinarily the president uses a soft-pointed fountain pen, but lately in approving important measures of legislation he has used every variety of pen. The eight-hour railroad bill he signed with four ordinary pens with steel points and black wood holders. In affixing the name, "Woodrow Wilson" to this act, he signed one syllable with each pen, his intention being to forward one pen to each of the four brotherhoods.

In signing the Philippine bill he used a pen furnished for the occasion by Manuel Quezon, the resident delegate from the Philippines. It was gold-pointed and ornate.

In signing the bills of lading act, he used a pen made from the quill of a porcupine, which Senator Spencer had provided.



## UNEARTH RELICS.

Subway Builders Find Well of Colonial Times.

### ALSO A FOSSIL SEASHORE.

Evidence of Ancient Beach Dating Back Hundreds of Thousands of Years to Days When Most of Country Was Covered With Enormous Cap of Glacial Ice.

New York.—The work of excavating for the new rapid transit lines in the lower part of Manhattan Island has revealed many interesting discoveries from the historical standpoint in the way of relics of colonial New York, dating back in some instances to the beginnings of the municipality, according to the Public Service Record. In the excavation work on the Park place, William and Clark street subway an even more interesting and older relic was brought to light in the shape of fossilized wave ripples of an ancient beach, dating back possibly hundreds of thousands of years to the days when most of the country hereabout was covered with an enormous cap of glacial ice.

This bit of ancient river shore lay some twenty feet beneath the curb line at the corner of William and John streets. Over it has passed for years the heavy traffic of the city; all about it and almost below it lie the foundations of some of the tallest business buildings in lower Manhattan. When the picks of the workmen struck into the side walls of the excavation this chunk of clay, loosened from its setting, fell out. Workmen interested in its appearance notified the engineers of the firm, and a photographer was called in order that the form defined might be preserved pictorially, for the clay itself exposed to the air quickly deteriorated and crumbled to dust.

In a letter to James B. Walker, secretary of the public service commission, by Edmund A. Prentiss, Jr., engineer for the contractors, he said:

"The geological history of the ripples is possibly as follows:

"During or toward the end of the glacial period, while lower Manhattan was submerged, streams of water deposited strata of materials varying from coarse sand to clay. This particular stratum is a very fine grained sand with a large admixture, probably 50 per cent, of clay. The ripples were made in shallow water, the agitation keeping the lighter mica particles in suspension, which, when the water was quiet, were deposited as a micaceous dust on the ripples. The next stratum was then deposited, the mica giving the two strata a perfect cleavage surface on which to break apart."

Mr. Prentiss has also informed the Record that the relic was found in what was termed in colonial days "Golden Hill," of which the name alone now remains, preserved in the Golden Hill building, at 111 William street. At one time, Mr. Prentiss states, a stream ran down Maiden lane to the East river from the vicinity of Broadway. On or about the line of William street another brook ran into it, which latter had its rise at about Fulton street and William street. This stream, however, Mr. Prentiss adds, had nothing in common with that which produced the fossilized wave ripples.

On the line of the old William street brook, during recent excavations on the Smith, Hauser & MacIsaac contract, there was recently discovered the bottom of an old well in which were found some bits of crockery. This well bottom was composed of half a ship's water butt, which was in a fairly good state of preservation. According to information furnished to Mr. Prentiss by I. N. Phelps Stokes, the well was probably dug within a few years of the British occupation of New York city—namely, about 1675.

## BABY THROUGH WINDSHIELD.

Mother Threw Blanket Over Child to Prevent Burning.

Stockton, Cal.—H. H. Rossbach, his wife and baby, of San Francisco, sustained injuries near Santa when their automobile collided with a fish peddler's cart. The baby was thrown through the windshield, but escaped with minor injuries.

Both Rossbach and his wife were cut and bruised. The impact of the collision caused the Rossbach car to turn over and roll down a thirty foot embankment, where it took fire.

With presence of mind, Mrs. Rossbach seized a blanket and threw it over the child, thereby probably preventing it from burning to death.

The injured people were taken to Tracy.

### Caught 1,080,000 Flies.

Hereford, Tex.—W. H. A. Porter, the champion fly catcher of Texas, emptied twenty-four flytraps the other day into a big old sack that measured forty-five gallons of flies. He says there are 24,000 flies in a gallon, making a total of 1,080,000 flies caught in eighteen days. Porter uses a flytrap of his own invention.

### Launch Rammed by Swordfish.

Galveston.—Rammed by a fifteen foot swordfish, the United States engineering launch Neuces was kept afloat with difficulty in the intercoastal canal between Caney creek and the Brazos river, near Galveston. Captain Prendergast shot the fish and hauled it aboard. Its sword was five feet long.

## THIS KENTUCKY COLONEL IS KNOWN TO EVERYONE

T. G. Stuart In Great Demand as a Biographical Department.

Winchester, Ky.—Colonel T. G. Stuart, who probably knows more people personally than any man in Kentucky, where handshaking is one of the great indoor and outdoor sports, is slowly recovering from an illness that threatened to be mortal.

No matter where Colonel Stuart—the title was conferred by the governor—goes he meets dozens of persons he can slap on the back and call by their first name. He never forgets a face or a name.

At sixteen years of age he edited a paper here and began to become acquainted throughout the state. As an officer in the Kentucky Press association he came in contact with the journalistic fraternity, and through them he acquired other friends.

Local newspapers use the colonel as a biographical department whenever an old resident dies. Trust him to know all the family connections.

## PORCUPINES INVADE CITY; ONE SHOWS FIGHT

When Attacked by Householder Creature Hurls Its Quills at Him.

Salt Lake City.—And now it is an invasion of porcupines.

Recently it was tarantulas, but now the stage is changed, and the spiked and bristling porcupines are trying to gain a foothold.

John E. Russell, better known to lithographers and duck hunters as "Doc," looked out his back door at his home early in the morning when he got up to light the fire and saw what looked like a young grizzly bear in his rose garden.

He investigated. Putting on a pair of slippers to augment his long white nightgown, "Doc" seized a poker and went into the yard and put the creature to flight.

Science says the porcupine merely sheds his quills, as the baldheaded man has done with his hair, but Russell declares the porcupine he saw must be a kind new to science, for the animal deliberately aimed the quills it threw at him. The porcupine shuffled through a hole in the fence and disappeared.

Another porcupine—or maybe it was the same one—was seen at Eighth South and West Temple streets by a perfectly sober man recently, while two days later a large porcupine was seen in Sugarhouse and was killed by boys.

## ELECTROCUTES SQUIRREL.

Gold Tooth and Wire Combine to End Life of Pet.

Greenwich, Conn.—Trixie, Dr. O. D. Flanagan's pet squirrel, opened the cigar box where the doctor always has a walnut waiting for her, jumped nimbly to the window sill and leaped to a wire that led through the branches of the maple that was her home.

The next instant she dropped to the ground dead. The gold crown that she had borne so proudly on a front tooth came in contact with the wire at the same instant that Trixie's saucy tail touched a branch of the maple. She was electrocuted, and every trace of the gold crown vanished in the tragedy.

## DOVE "U-53" ALIGHTS.

Bird With Strange Characters Bound to Leg Found in Edgewater.

New York.—A white dove fluttered into a window of the offices of Batterson & Elise on River road, Edgewater, and the clerk who caught it took it to police headquarters when he noticed a band of yellow metal on its leg. The police found, "U-53" inscribed on the band on the outside and on the inside words in a language they could not decipher. To most of those who inspected it the language seemed to be German, but no one who could identify the letters or translate them was able to see the bird when the report of its arrival reached the city.

## BOY GETS HOODOO DEER.

Lad Shoots Old Buck That Dodged Bullets of Other Hunters.

Salkas, Cal.—Monterey county, which usually has more deer killed in it than any other county in California, tops all the local records with a forked horn buck that weighed 237 pounds, dressed. The buck was killed in the last day of the season by William Casey, Jr., near his home at San Lucas. The deer was an old one, and hunters had been trying for years to get it, but the wily buck always managed to escape the bullets and was called the hoodoo.

### Bear Invades Orchard.

Hood River, Ore.—"Come home at once and kill a bear that is picking apples in the orchard," was the insistent message that Mrs. W. L. Hodges delivered the other day over the telephone to her husband in the city on business. Mr. Hodges lost no time in motoring to his Oak Grove home. Men working in the orchard tried in vain to keep the bear frightened away from timber growing along a draw after he had eaten his fill of apples. But finally

## The Three Lads

Down the road rides a German lad  
Into the distance gray.  
Straight toward the north as a bullet  
flies.  
The dusky north, with its cold, sad skies,  
But the song that he sings is merry and glad.  
For he's off to the war and away.  
"Then, hey for our righteous king!" he cries,  
"And the good old God in his good old  
skies!"  
And he for love and a pair of blue eyes,  
For I'm off to the war and away!"

Down the road rides a Russian lad  
Into the distance gray.  
Out toward the glare of the steppes he  
spurs,  
And he hears the wolves in the southern  
firs,  
But the song that he sings is blithe and  
glad.  
For he's off to the war and away.  
"Then hey for our noble czar!" he cries,  
"And liberty that never dies!"  
And he for love and a pair of blue eyes,  
For I'm off to the war and away!"

Down the road rides an English lad  
Into the distance gray.  
Through the murk and fog of the river's  
breath,  
Through the dank, dark night he rides to  
his death,  
But the song that he sings is gay and  
glad.  
For he's off to the war and away.  
"Then hey for our honest king!" he  
cries,  
"And hey for truth, and down with lies!"  
And he for love and a pair of blue eyes,  
For I'm off to the war and away!"  
—Elizabeth Chandler Forman in London  
Nation.

## TO TEACH PHOTOGRAPHY.

Uncle Sam to Start Course for Commercial Purposes.

Uncle Sam soon will inaugurate a special course in photography for commercial purposes, the bureau of foreign and domestic commerce has just announced.

The possibility of photographing objects at a distance of several miles by means of a moving picture camera has been investigated by the United States bureau of standards. After many experts of the bureau finally succeeded in constructing a camera of great focal length it was found possible to take pictures of objects at a great distance.

The camera will be used in the educational courses arranged by the department of commerce to assist the people in reaching a better understanding of trade conditions in foreign countries and at home.

## PLIGHT TROTH OVER THE TELEGRAPH WIRE

Soldier at Border Takes Bride 1,200 Miles Away in Morse Code.

Over 1,200 miles of telegraph wire and performed through proxies in the persons of two telegraph operators, Private Byron J. Linhart, B. company, Second Missouri infantry, stationed at Laredo, Tex., and Miss Ruby Swartz, in her home town of Butler, Mo., were married recently according to the rites of the Episcopal church.

Preliminary to the wedding the officiating clergymen in Laredo and Butler entered into a telegraphic conversation to ascertain the official standing of each other in the church and their authority to perform the ceremony.

Linhart, accompanied by the Rev. C. W. Cook, appeared at the Laredo telegraph office at 8 o'clock for the unique ceremony. At the same hour Miss Swartz, accompanied by Rev. E. M. Talbot and Mrs. Edward S. Clark, who acted as bridesmaid, arrived at the telegraph office in Butler. The telegraph operators handled messages direct between the two places embodying the full marriage ceremony of the Episcopal church, wherein both bride and bridegroom signified their acceptance of each other as life partners.

## URGE "WAR BREAD."

United States Baking Experts Recommend Potato and Flour Loaf.

Bread of excellent quality and high nutritive value can be made by using three pounds of boiled and mashed potatoes and two and one-quarter pounds of good bread flour, according to the baking specialists of the United States department of agriculture.

The bread so compounded has a rich brown crust and tender and elastic crumb, the experts declare, and contains more mineral matter, fiber and moisture, but otherwise in composition and nutritive value is practically the same as ordinary bread. Its higher moisture content helps to keep it fresh several days longer than ordinary bread. The use of the new form of bread is recommended as a means of offsetting the rising cost of the white loaf of commerce.

### Lightning Cures and Destroys.

Mrs. Mary Webber of Colfax, Ia., has been deaf since she was ten years old. She was visiting at the home of Mrs. L. Runyon, near Perry, Ia. In a fierce electrical storm lightning struck a telephone pole in front of the Runyon house, and the bolt ran into the house on the telephone wire. Mrs. Webber was stunned and on recovery discovered that her hearing was restored. But the lightning had knocked out a piece of metal from the instrument, which struck Mrs. Runyon's right eye, destroying the sight.

### Iron Cross Statistics.

The 439,000 iron crosses conferred by Germany have used up seven and one-half tons of metal and eighty-seven miles of ribbon.

ORDER 24 HOURS A DAY  
PRAYER FOR EVA BOOTH

For seven weeks Eva Booth of the Salvation Army has been ill with neuritis at her home in Hartsdale, N. Y., and there is much anxiety over her condition. Colonel W. Peart of Mount Vernon says that the disease had attacked Commander Booth's left arm in the elbow and shoulder and that she suffered much pain. She is under the care of a New York specialist and a White Plains doctor.

Salvation Army officers all over the country have been instructed to order ceaseless supplication for the recovery of their leader.

## HUGE TOMATO PLANTS.

University of Chicago Raising Them to Grow Twelve Feet High.

Luther Burbank has rivals at the University of Chicago who are preparing a huge surprise for the ultimate consumer. It is to be a supertomato of Broddingnagian dimensions.

Experiments conducted in the last several months in the botany department by Associate Professor William Crocker and Instructor Lee Knight have resulted in the growth of tomato plants twelve feet high. The vitality of the plant seems to have been utterly exhausted, however, in the struggle for altitude, for it bears no fruit. Efforts of the experimenters are now centered on the task of producing a fruit that will correspond to the vine. If they succeed it is predicted that the market will be provided with tomatoes as large as pumpkins.

## WAR'S PACE TOO FAST FOR MIDDLE AGED MEN

Armies of Boys Will Soon Be Facing Each Other on European Battlefields.

The war threatens soon to become a struggle between mere boys. The pace is said to be entirely too fast for the older men long to endure. It is asserted that next year the armies facing each other will be composed to a great extent of boys seventeen and eighteen years old.

General Sir Douglas Haig, commanding the British expeditionary forces, is said to have objected to the sending out of men of middle age. He wants men from eighteen to twenty-five years old. After the latter year it is said the fighting value of the human unit shows a rapid and steady decline.

The good soldier of today, it seems, must be of the age which excels in the more strenuous athletic games—the football player type. The older men have their place; but, generally speaking, it is said now to be in "the army behind the army"—the men back of the line, in the supply and transport divisions, where the strain is not so great. These older men are too susceptible to trench diseases to be of great use on the firing line.

England already is registering boys born in 1890, preparatory to calling them when they attain their eighteenth year.

## ABANDONS THE MEMPHIS.

Cruiser Blown Ashore in Hurricane Will Not Be Salvaged.

The navy department has practically decided not to attempt to salvage the cruiser Memphis, which was blown ashore in a tropical hurricane in the harbor of Santo Domingo.

The cost of salvaging and of repair would be between \$2,000,000 and \$3,000,000. Although the board of inquiry, headed by Captain John F. Hood of the Naval War college, has reported in favor of salvaging, the navy department decided to spend the money required on new ships. The collier Hector, which was grounded off the south Atlantic coast in a storm, is almost a total loss, although hope is still held out that the engines and equipment of the vessel will be safe.

## OLD SUIT DISMISSED.

Case Had Been In Connecticut Courts For Thirty-two Years.

After years of litigation in various Connecticut courts the will case of Louis T. Goodnow of California, against Marie O. Hotchkiss and Yale university has been dismissed by Judge Edwin S. Thomas of the United States court at Hartford.

The suit was brought thirty-two years ago by a grandchild of the late William T. Hotchkiss of New Haven, who objected to the widow giving a large portion of the estate to Yale.

### Russian Grafters in Jail.

Considerable sensation has been caused at Kiev, Russia, by the arrest and punishment of two distinguished officers, Colonel Glenn, chief of the military board, who was sentenced to two years imprisonment for tampering with the army food supply and purchasing half rotten meat, and Colonel Pantukhin, formerly in charge of the military clothes supply at Omak, who was sentenced to a year and a half imprisonment for embezzling large sums by giving bogus receipts to pretended purchasers.